

March 20, 2003

Public Notice for Section 401 Water Quality

**Pacific Lumber Company, Summer Crossings on the Van Duzen River at
Root Creek, Cummings Creek, 10 Mile Creek and Strong Station
WDID No.1B03043WNHU**

Humboldt County

On March 11, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Pacific Lumber Company requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for the temporary summer crossings proposed at Root Creek, Cummings Creek, 10 Mile Creek, and Strong Station on the Van Duzen River in Humboldt County, California. The application was deemed complete on March 17, 2003. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the Van Duzen River located in the Eel River Hydrologic Unit No. 111.00.

Approximately 400 cubic yards of gravel will be removed from the river bars and used to form bridge approaches at each location. Logs will be placed on river bars to serve as bridge abutments. Installation activities may use some or all of the following: bulldozers, loaders, excavators, and dump trucks. This project will not require dewatering of the Van Duzen River.

This project will not result in a permanent loss of wetlands. Approximately one acre of river bar will be temporarily impacted by this project.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for this project. Noncompensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices. All work will be confined to gravel bars and will not encroach on the live stream channel. There will be no soil removed or vegetation disturbed. Streambeds will be regraded to smooth contours upon crossing removal at the end of each summer season.

The California Department of Fish and Game, as the lead agency, issued a Notice of Determination which categorizes this project as having no significant impact pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Pacific Lumber Company's Summer Crossing Bridge Project is scheduled to occur annually beginning June 15, 2003, and ending in October or November, depending on weather conditions and flow conditions in the Van Duzen River. This Water Quality Certification, once issued, will remain in effect for five years. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341). Staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Kirsten James at (707) 576-6725, or at jamek@rbl.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.